because most of them approach us. These people are not those who retired voluntarily, but who were forcibly retired. There was charges that these people are transferred, by way of harassment, from one region to another. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is an all-India cadre or it is a regional cadre. Or, have they any vigilance Committees at the State Level to go into allegations as we have in various Government departments?

KUMARI SELJA: Madam, each case is taken up separately. Whenever there are reported cases of harassment, we enquire into them. As I said in the beginning, this is a very huge organisation of about 40,000 employees and no doubt, some cases can be there where, probably, there is some harassment. But if it comes to light, if it comes to our notice, we try to take care of that. But as far as transfers are concerned, it is done on administrative grounds, not as harassment. But if there is any particular case which the hon. Member is aware of, we would certainly like to take it up. We won't like out employees to be unhappy on this account. And as far as transfers are concerned, yes, Principals are transferred from one region to another, PGT teachers also on their request or on other grounds can be transferred because the schools are all over the country. We do have a system of vigilance also.

*723. *[The Questioners (Shri Ajit P.K. Jogi and Shri Moolchand Meena) were absent for answer vide Column.....infra]*

**Dam height of SSP**

*724. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:†
SHRI G.G. SWELL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the further construction of Sardar Sarovar Project has been at standstill due to divergent views on the height of the Dam and also due to pending solution of the resettlement of the oustees;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir. The work on the Project is continuing.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Madam, answer that has been given is absolutely misleading. They are playing with words. The reality is that the construction at Sardar Sarovar Project has suffered. If, now, you have started a little bit during the last two to three months, it does not mean that it was not a standstill. Previously, the approved schedule was that the dam height would be raised to 110 metre by June, 1995. Subsequently, because of the oustees problem, it was scaled down to 87 metres. At the moment, it is around 80 metres. Had it been completed up to 87 metres, water would have flown into the canal of Gujarat. At the present elevation of 80 metres, water cannot flow into the canal of Gujarat. Therefore, to say that the work on the project is continuing is not correct. That way, even if you put up a small bridge, you can say that the work is continuing. As per the original schedule, the height was 110 metres. Thereafter, as I said, it

† The Question was actually asked in the floor of the House by Shri Chimanbhai Mehta.

was scaled down to 87 metres. Now it is around 80 metres. It is so since the last six or eight months. Therefore, my first question is: How much have you gone up? Secondly, I would like to know whether the Supreme Court had given any directive in the matter.

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: Madam, I am afraid, the hon. Member is not aware of the facts on the ground. Saying that the project is delayed is different from saying that the work on the project is at a standstill. The question was whether the project was at a standstill. I have said that it is not at a standstill. I have said that it is continuing. The progress may not be as anticipated or as expected. The progress may not be as per the schedule. But the work is going on.

In the current year, an outlay of Rs. 1,500 crores has been earmarked to the Nigam. Out of this, about Rs. 18 crores have been spent in one month; i.e. in the month of April. The work is progressing in all the branches, i.e. the dam, the power house, the canals and the stilling basin. Therefore, it is not correct to say that the work is at a standstill.

As regards his second question, i.e. about the Supreme Court's directive, the Supreme Court had directed...

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: How much the height has gone up during the last eight months? That is the question I am asking. My question is in relation to the height. What is the extent of construction, ultimately?

(*Interruptions*)

They might have given the work to the contractors.

There may be a lot of variance.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer the question.

THE P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: The present height is 80.3 metres, in certain bolcks.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Since how long?

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: It is going or.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: There is the position since the last eight months.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer. If you already knew about it, what was the point in putting the question?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Let him answer my question about the height. Then, I would put my second supplementary.

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: As regards the Supreme Court's decision, the Supreme Court had permitted the raising of the height up to 105 metres, in certain blocks. The Court had also permitted construction of humps in certain blocks to regulate the overflow of water so that it did not damage the stilling basin. The work is going on and would be completed as per the schedule. The final decision of the Supreme Court is awaited in regard to the height of the dam.

As I said, Madam — I repeat--there might have been some delay. But the work has not come to a standstill. This is the point I want to make.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Madam, would the hon. Minister say as to when the height of 110 metres would be reached? As per the previously-approved schedule, this height of 110 metres was to have been reached by 1995 June. When would this be reached? This is my point. Would the water start flowing into the canal of Gujarat next year? When would the water start flowing? Actually, this should have happened much earlier.

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: Madam, the hon. Member has repeated his earlier question, but in a different language. I have answered the question. As he said, there might have been some

delay in achieving the target. He is now asking as to why the previously-approved height of 110 metres has not been reached. This is because of some delay in the various works. It is now going on. The target of 105 metres has been set for this year, i.e. 1995-96, in certain reaches of the dam. Only after the proper levels are reached and after the canals are ready in Gujarat can the water flow.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: When will you allow the height to go up?

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: Yes, we will allow the height to go up to 105 metres as per the Supreme Court direction and not beyond it.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: It can be done in a hundred years also.

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: It will be 105 metres by the end of this year 1995-96.

SHRI G.G. SWELL: Madam, it is obvious that the Minister is trying hard to play with words. I think he knows the difference between 'continuing' and "intermittent." I think he has said this much that there has been a delay and that the progress has been intermittent. If he understands the word "intermittent" it means that you stop for some time you begin again you stop for some time and you begin again. Now, you are at a height of 80.3 metres against the height of 05 metres which the Supreme Court has permitted. I would like to know two things;

Has the Madhya Pradesh Government strongly represented that this height should be scaled down in order to lessen the number of oustees from the land?

What has been the Government's reaction to the stand of the Madhya Pradesh Govenrment?

Has he made an assessement of the number or oustees from the land as a result of raising the height of the Dam? What is the number of oustees?

Have you been able to rehabilitate them? What sort of rehabilitation have you given to them? *(Interruptions)*

My questions are these. Your progress has been intermittent. What is the delay?

Has the Madhya Pradesh Government asked that the height should be scaled down?

What is the number of oustees? What kind of rehabilitation are you giving of the oustees?

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: Madam as already stated, there has been some delay in the execution of the project. I do not see any objection to my using the word "continuing." If the hon. Member feels that the work has been intermittent. I have no objection to his own perception. He can perceive it in any way he likes. But my submission is that there has been some delay and that there has been a time and-cost overrun in this project. We are trying to complete it as I said the other day in this House by around 2000 A.D. provided funds are made available.

Regarding the second point it is a fact that the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister has written a D.O. letter to the hon. Prime Minister setting out the points raised by the Member. Goverment of India's stand on this is that the matter is now pending before the hon. Supreme Court on petitions filed by the Narmada Bachao Andolan as well as some others and the Court is hearing the case from time to time. Recently the hearing was held on the 5th of May. The Supreme Court gave a direction that the Dam could be raised in some reaches up to 105 metres not throughout and that humps should be constructed pending disposal of the writ petitions. So, we are awaiting a decision of the Supreme Court in this regard. So, till such time we cannot say what our response will be to the letter of the hon. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh is also a party to the dispute and it is also representing its

case before the Supreme Court through its counsel.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: The matter is *sub judice.*

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: Yes, it is *sub judice.*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Why did you answer this?

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: You have put the question. I am answering about the status of the case.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has to say that it is *sub judice.*

He can say that much.

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: I have got the figures on submergence. I can give the details. They are very lengthy, but roughtly I can say in Gujarat it is 19 villages, in Madhya Pradesh it is 193 villages, in Maharashtra it is 33 villages. Families affected, including major sons: Gujarat 4,600, Madhya Pradesh 33,000 and Maharashtra, around 3,113. Then land, which is likely to be inundated or submerged is a total cultivable land, in Gujarat it is 1,877 hectare in Madhya Pradesh it is 6,599 hectare in Maharashtra it is 1,590 heactare Forest land: in Gujarat 4,523 hactare, in Madhya Pradesh 2831 hectare and in Maharashtra it is 6,288 hectare other lands also are affected by this. Gujarat, 1,069 hetare Madhya Pradesh, 11,000 hectare.

डा० बापू कालदाते: उपसभापति महोदया, कई सालों से इस परियोजना के बारे में इस देश में चर्चा चल रही है और सरकार भी बार-बार, कभी नए ढंग से कभी पुराने ढंग से जवाब देती आई है, आपके सारे जवाब सुनने के बाद मुझे लग रहा है कि जब तक सुप्रीम कोर्ट का क्लीअरेंस आपके पास नहीं आएगा तब तक आप भले कुछ भी कहें, कांटीन्यूअस कहें, इन्टरमिटेंट कहें, लेकिन इसमें देर लगने वाली है, काम ज्यादा जोर से चलने वाला नहीं है. लेकिन वह जो सुप्रीम कोर्ट की बात आपने कही, क्या मैं यह मान लूं कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट का आदेश आने तक यही तक आपने बांध का काम किया है, 86 मीटर तक, उसके आगे आप बांध का काम नहीं करेंगे, ऐसा मैं समझकर चलूं?

This is my question. Are you going to continue or are you going to stop there till the Supreme Court's final judgement comes, or are you also going to raise the height of the dam continuously before even to Supreme Courts judgement reaches you? What is the position today about the question of height? Are you going to construct it before the Supreme Court gives its final verdict or are you going to stop at that?

SHRI P.V RANGAYYA NAIDU: We will stick to the Supreme Court's directive for the present. The height of the dam is the question that is being adjudicated or decided by the Supreme Court. So, cannot go beyond the directions of the Supreme Court. As I have already said, we will raise the dam certainly to 105 metres and the rest of it will remain at 80.3 metres with humps constructed at different places to prevent any damage to the stilting basin. So, my answer is that we will not go ahead with the increase of the height until the Supreme Court gives its final decision. The case stands posted for 14th July, 1995.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 725. Jethmalani Ji, are you aware that you are to ask the question in the House?

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Question No. 725, Madan.

**सरकारी जमीन को कृषि हेतु उपयोग में लाने के लिए औद्योगिक संस्थानों को पट्टे पर दिया जाना**

†*725. श्री राम जेठमलानी:
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने देश में बड़ी सरकारी जमीन को कृषि हेतु उपयोग में लाने के लिए उसे औद्योगिक संस्थानों को पट्टे पर देने का निर्णय लिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री राम जेठमलानी द्वारा पूछा गया।